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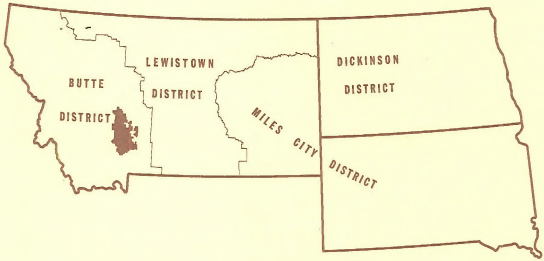

BROADWATER/THREE FORKS PLANNING UNIT

Headwaters Resource Area

Butte District **Montana**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

Broadwater/Three Forks Planning Unit

September 1976

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Butte District
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Preface

The Bureau of Land Management's Montana State organization manages resources on almost 8.4 million acres of surface land and 55 million acres of subsurface minerals in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Butte BLM District Office is responsible for more than 1.3 million surface and 2.3 million subsurface acres. These national resource lands are used by many people for a variety of activities. It is BLM's responsibility to develop coordinated land use allocations specifying the guidelines, constraints, and criteria for the utilization or protection of the public's resources.

To better prepare for present and future demands on national resource lands (NRL), BLM has developed land use plans for many areas of the state. This pamphlet contains a summary of the land use decisions for the NRL in Broadwater - Three Forks Planning Units covering approximately 71,300 surface and 122,000 subsurface acres in Broadwater and Gallatin counties.

These decisions were made after gathering all available resource data and obtaining the viewpoints of local citizens and the user public. This information, as well as the technical expertise of BLM resource specialists, was combined and analyzed to formulate the land use decisions outlined on the following pages. By design, these decisions are flexible so they can deal with new demands or new conditions that may arise on national resource lands. They will be updated or revised as necessary to help keep this Management Framework Plan current and effective.

For the sake of clarity and brevity, this report is a summary document of the total planning process. Specific information not covered in this report includes detailed maps, detailed physical and resource inventory data, and social and economic data. This information, as well as the other components of BLM's land use planning process, is available for public review at the Butte District Office, Monday through Friday during regular business hours. If you wish to review these documents, please make an appointment so we can have someone available to discuss them with you.

My staff and I thank everyone who assisted in the effort, especially those concerned enough to attend our public meetings or contribute to the final product. We look forward to working with you again in formulating similar plans or updating older plans as the need arises.

Jack McIntosh
District Manager

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Introduction

A. BLM Planning System

Under the Bureau's planning system, detailed information is gathered and management decisions are developed concerning the resource categories of lands, minerals, timber, livestock forage, soils, water, wildlife habitat, and recreation. In order to meet the needs of its diverse public users, BLM must effectively balance and compromise in the management of these resources and the national resource lands in general. Under the concept of multiple use management, all potential uses of the public's resources are equally considered and evaluated before a final management plan is developed and implemented.

The Bureau of Land Management has developed its land use planning system with three major components:

Program Direction
Resource Information
Management Decisions

1. Program Direction. General program direction, policies, goals, and priorities are set by the President, Congress, and the Secretary of the Interior. These directions are expressed in executive orders, laws, regulations, and other documents.

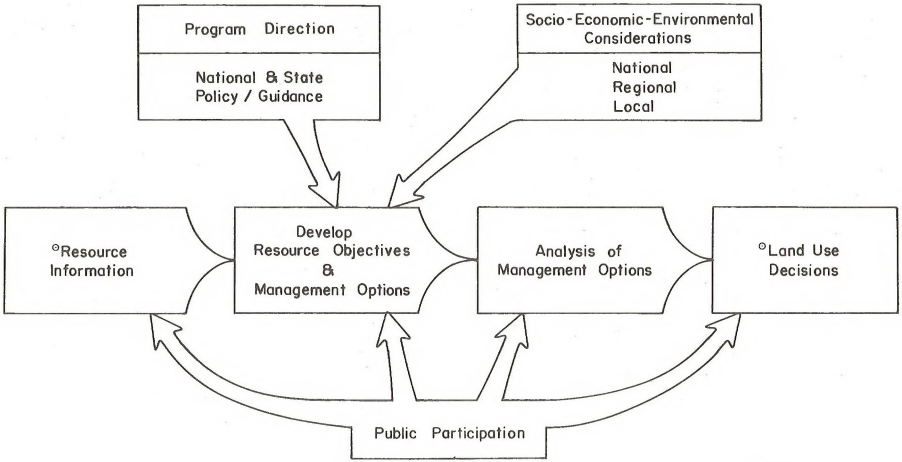
2. Resource Information. In initiating this phase of the planning system, BLM specialists obtain all of the necessary land and resource information relative to the region under study. In particular, data is collected for the lands, minerals, recreation, wildlife, watershed, timber, and livestock forage programs. Here, each resource specialist--the forester, range conservationist, minerals manager, watershed specialist,

etc.--studies the planning area to determine the current condition, use, trends, and problems concerning this resource responsibility. This analysis is then further developed to identify the maximum potential for the resource use being considered without the constraints of competing or conflicting uses. The importance of this step is that it shows all of the potential outputs that are possible from national resource lands. In addition, socio-economic data is gathered and analyzed and an ecological profile is prepared to facilitate the evaluation of land use alternatives that will be generated by the planning system. In compiling the above information, the Bureau contacts traditional, as well as new interests, to make sure that all the available data has been obtained before going ahead with the planning process.

3. Management Decisions. The next phase of the planning system is designed to resolve resource use conflicts and to provide the basic guidelines for the use and management of the national resource lands under study. This is the heart of the planning system. Here, each resource specialist prepares objectives and outlines specific proposals for the optimum use of his resource based on current technology, Bureau guidelines, and the socio-economic needs of the region. Each of these individual resource proposals is then fully documented and individually portrayed utilizing a map and overlay system. At this point, the conflicts between the various resource proposals and possible multiple use solutions are identified through careful analysis and utilization of the narratives, maps and overlays. Based on the comments and information received through

public participation, BLM managers are often able to develop additional land use alternatives and multiple use solutions. The impacts of each of these alternatives are identified and analyzed to facilitate the selection of the best mix of uses for the area under study. As a result of those actions, a comprehensive land use plan is developed and adopted which establishes coordinated land use allocations for BLM managed resources along with specifying the guidelines, constraints, and criteria for this utilization.

B.L.M. PLANNING SYSTEM



°Lands
°Minerals
°Livestock Forage
°Recreation
°Watersheds
°Timber
°Wildlife

B. BLM Planning System Flowchart

C. Planning Assumptions

1. Management guidelines set forth in this document apply only to national resource lands. In the Broadwater - Three Forks planning area, BLM administers approximately 71,300 acres of surface land and 122,000 acres of mineral estate.

2. All of the guidelines developed in this study are subject to revision as the management climate changes. In that regard, decisions are "final" only under existing circumstances. As data improves, technology changes, legislation is developed, or social demands change, these guidelines will be revised to reflect those changes. Major revisions in program direction will be subject to public review as necessary.

3. The implementation of the management guidelines set forth in this document is governed by the availability of manpower and funds.

General Description of the Area

The Broadwater - Three Forks planning area encompasses a region of approximately 1,410,000 acres within Broadwater and Gallatin counties (see map on page 8). The main communities within the area are Townsend, population 1,371; Three Forks, population 1,188; Manhattan, population 816, Belgrade, population 1,307; and Bozeman, population 18,570 (1970 census).

The most dominant and important physical features include the Jefferson, Gallatin, Madison, and Missouri River drainages which dissect the region in a north/south direction. The Big Belt Mountains and Bridger Range are located on the

eastern edge of the planning area. The Spokane Hills are situated to the north; the Elkhorn Mountains, the Bull Mountains, and Tobacco Root Mountains to the west; while the Gallatin and Madison ranges lie to the south. Important physical feature associated with BLM administered lands are the Horseshoe Hills north of Manhattan, Spokane Hills and the Limestone Hills, which are respectively located north and west of Townsend.

The area economy is diversified. Within Broadwater County, irrigated and dry land farming, ranching, and general recreation associated with the Helena National Forest and Canyon Ferry Reservoir are extremely important contributions to the local economy. Mining was an important component in the past, but has declined in recent years. Important mining regions were centered around Winston, Radersburg, Confederate Gulch, and Indian Creek. These areas, as well as others, are still important as there is considerable potential for exploration and development.

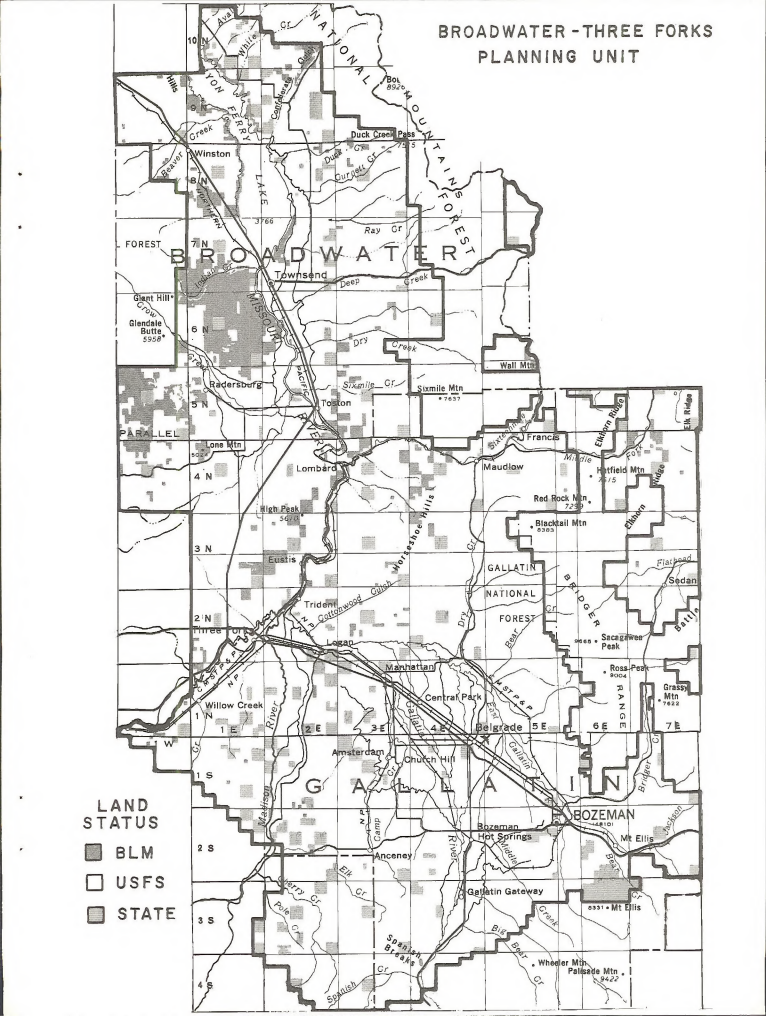
Within Gallatin County, farming, ranching, timber production, and general recreation are evident. In addition, Bozeman, with a population of 18,570, is an important regional trade and cultural center for southwestern Montana. Here, a concentration of both general and governmental services, educational institutions, and light industry create a wide ranging and significant economic base to the total planning area. Mining has not played a significant role in the economic development of Gallatin County. At the present time, significant limestone beds have been developed at Trident and are used in the production of lime and cement.

The surface and subsurface ownership of the planning area is predominantly in private ownership with scattered

tracts of national resource land, other federal and state lands interspersed. National resource lands under BLM administration amount to only five percent of the total lands in the area. Ownership is broken down as follows:

Acres			
NRL*	Other Federal Ownership	State Ownership	Private Ownership
71,389.30	29,820.69	122,800.59	1,186,792.61

*In addition to the 71,389.30 acres of national resource land, BLM also administers about 122,000 subsurface mineral acres in the two-county area.


BROADWATER - THREE FORKS
PLANNING UNIT
NATIONAL MOUNTAIN FOREST
BROADWATER
GALLATIN
NATIONAL FOREST
Townsend
Toston
Radersburg
Winston
Duck Creek Pass
Giant Hill
Glendale Butte
Wall Mtn
Sixmile Mtn
Lone Mtn
Lombard
Maudlow
Francis
Hatfield Mtn
Red Rock Mtn
Blacktail Mtn
High Peak
Eustis
Trident
Logan
Manhattan
Central Park
Belgrade
Willow Creek
Amsterdam
Church Hill
BOZEMAN
Hot Springs
Mt Ellis
Anceney
Gallatin Gateway
Wheeler Mtn
Palisade Mtn
Sedan
Scarpenver Peak
Ross Peak
Grassy Mtn
Sixmile Creek
Missouri River
Gallatin River
Madison River
Jefferson River
Boulder River
Bridger Range
Elkhorn Range
Big Belt Mts
Horseshoe Hills
Parallel
Lake
Forest
LAND STATUS
BLM
USFS
STATE

Resources Administered by BLM

A. Lands Program (Background)

BLM's lands program involves land use planning (in cooperation with state and local government) such as classifying land for residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, or public purpose uses. It also provides support for other resource management programs by processing land withdrawals, administering trespass cases, coordinating land acquisition and disposal and granting rights-of-way across public lands for transmission and telephone lines, highways, and other uses. Within the Broadwater - Three Forks planning area the acreage used for rights-of-way is significant. Forty-six rights-of-way crossing public lands have been recorded. These uses vary from roads, highways, pipelines, communication sites, railroad lines, to utility corridors. Several special uses have also been authorized by BLM. These uses include sanitary landfill sites, a National Guard training area, and special permits issued to the University of Montana for environmental monitoring purposes. During the initial inventory phase of the planning process, 16 trespass cases were noted. This unauthorized use ranges from agricultural and occupancy trespass to the encroachment of various rights-of-way.

Major Management Guidelines for the Lands Program Are:

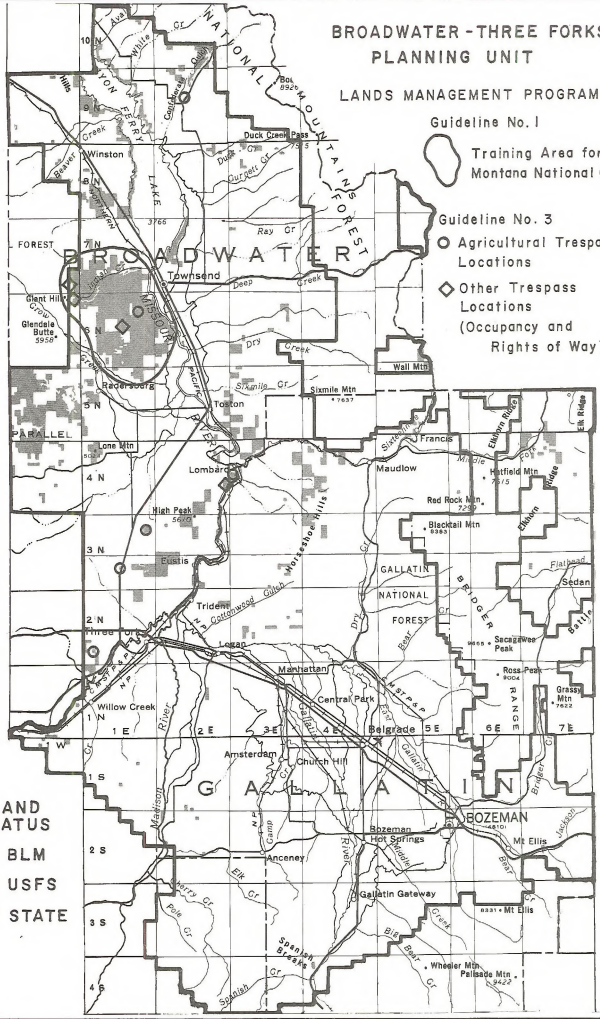
1. Continue to provide a training area for the Montana National Guard in the Limestone Hills. As in the past, this use must be coordinated with other uses, including livestock grazing, transportation, and some off-road-vehicle use. To protect wildlife values, training should be carried out only between April 1 and November 30 of each year.

2. Consider alternative locations for proposed 500 KV transmission lines which may be constructed to distribute electricity from Colstrip Units 3 and 4. One proposed powerline routing through the Limestone Hills west of Townsend would impact watershed values and existing uses.

3. Take action to terminate all unauthorized agricultural and occupancy trespass as manpower and funds are available. In cases of agricultural trespass, consider disposition of these lands if soil potential warrants sustained agricultural production.

4. Continue to provide lands for right-of-way uses subject to protective stipulations.

5. Initiate withdrawal reviews to determine if 5,250 acres of public land are being used for the purposes for which the withdrawals were intended. These actions will require coordination with the Federal Power Commission, US Geological Survey, US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. These lands are located adjacent to the Missouri River, Canyon Ferry Lake, and portions of the Helena National Forest.


BROADWATER - THREE FORKS PLANNING UNIT
LANDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Guideline No. 1
Training Area for the Montana National Guard
Guideline No. 3
Agricultural Trespass Locations
Other Trespass Locations (Occupancy and Rights of Way)
LAND STATUS
BLM
USFS
STATE
BROADWATER
GALLATIN
Townsend
Toston
Winston
Lombard
Three Forks
Manhattan
Belgrade
BOZEMAN
Bozeman Hot Springs
Gallatin Gateway
Ancenay
Amsterdam
Church Hill
Central Park
Logan
Trident
Maudlow
Francis
Wall Mtn
Sixmile Mtn
Lone Mtn
High Peak
Duck Creek Pass
Mt Ellis
Wheeler Mtn.
Palisade Mtn.
Missouri River
Madison River
Gallatin River
Jefferson River
Boulder River
Elkhorn Mts
Bridger Range
Gallatin National Forest

B. Minerals Program (Background)

As the mineral leasing agency for the federal government, the Bureau of Land Management operates under a number of laws including the Mining Law of 1872, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, and the Material Sales Act of 1947. The law of 1872 applies to locatable minerals such as gold, silver, and lead; the 1920 act covers leaseable minerals such as oil, gas, and coal; while the Material Sales Act applies to saleable minerals such as sand and gravel. In the Broadwater - Three Forks planning unit, BLM administers the subsurface mineral estate of approximately 50,700 acres beneath privately owned surface in addition to approximately 71,300 acres beneath BLM administered surface.

This planning area has had substantial metallic mineral production in the past. Today, however, production is limited but exploration activities are increasing. Leaseable mineral production within the unit has been virtually non-existent. Saleable mineral production has occurred within the unit and had kept abreast with area construction and development

Major Management Guidelines for the Minerals Program Are:

1. Provide saleable materials (sand, gravel, building stone, rip rap, etc.) at a fair market value. Require rehabilitation to minimize environmental impacts.

2. For all areas with recognized potential for various locatable minerals, allow exploration and entry under the General Mining Law.

3. Provide for continued leasing of federal minerals, both under BLM managed and private surface with adequate stipulations incorporated into future leases to minimize environmental degradation and protect private property.

C. Timber Management (Background)

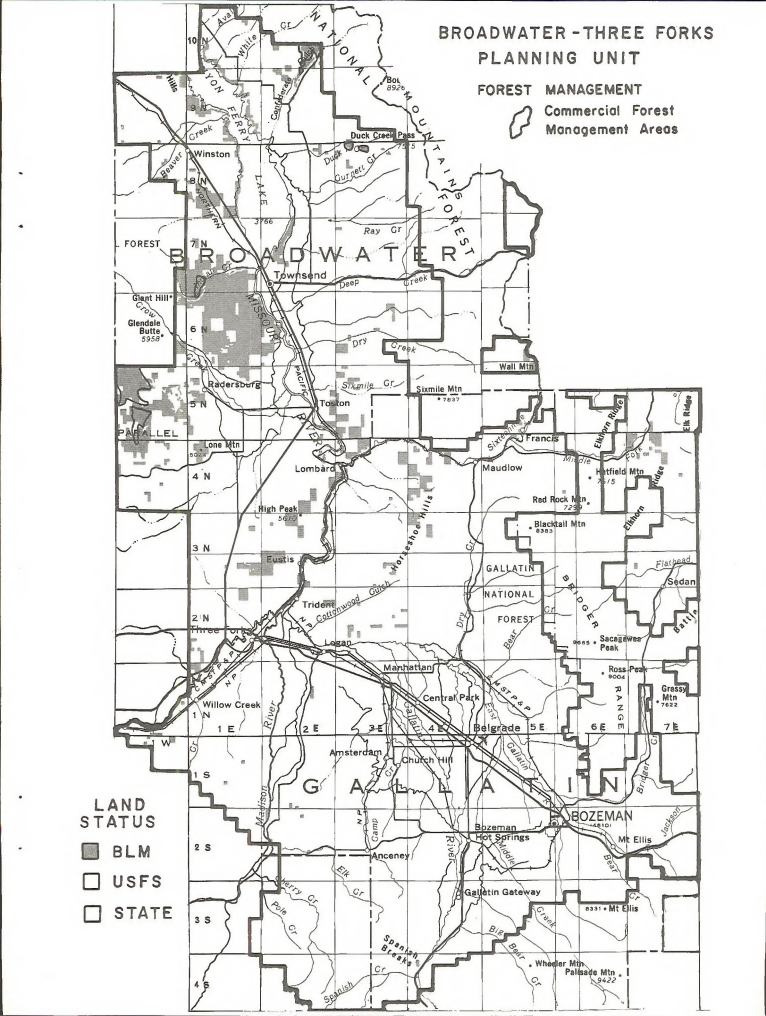
The Bureau administered forest resource in the planning area is essentialy undeveloped. There is approximately 7,500 widely scattered acres of commerical timber with a standing volume of 30 million board feet. An additional 1,092 acres is classified as noncommercial forest. The primary commercial species is Douglas fir. Other species include lodgepole pine and small amounts of Englemann spruce and subalpine fir.

Timber harvested on NRL in both Broadwater and Gallatin counties consists of less than one percent of the total volume. Full utilization of BLM timber could increase this percentage to approximately two percent within Gallatin County, and up to eleven percent in Broadwater County.

The Major Guidelines for Timber Management Program Are:

1. Carry out a more intensive inventory and draft management plan to offer approximately 2.6 MM Bd. Ft. per decade in the Broadwater unit. Emphasize harvest primarily by partial cut methods and incorporated with requirements to minimize adverse impacts on other environmental values.

2. For the Three Forks unit (Horseshoe Hill area), management priority will be to maintain existing conifer cover for wildlife escape and watershed protection.


BROADWATER - THREE FORKS
PLANNING UNIT
FOREST MANAGEMENT
Commercial Forest
Management Areas
LAND
STATUS
BLM
USFS
STATE
BROADWATER
GALLATIN
NATIONAL FOREST
NATIONAL MOUNTAINS
LAKE
Townsend
Toston
Radersburg
Giant Hill
Glendale Butte
5958
Lone Mtn
Lombard
High Peak
Eustis
Trident
Logan
Three Forks
Manhattan
Willow Creek
Amsterdam
Church Hill
Belgrade
Central Park
Bozeman
Hot Springs
Ancenev
Gallatin Gateway
Wall Mtn
Sixmile Mtn
7837
Francis
Maudlow
Hatfield Mtn
7615
Red Rock Mtn
7250
Blacktail Mtn
6303
Sedan
Sacagawea Peak
9665
Ross Peak
9004
Grassy Mtn
7622
Mt Ellis
9331
Wheeler Mtn
Palisade Mtn
9422
Duck Creek Pass
7155
Winston
Deep Creek
Dry Creek
Ray Gr
Sixmile Gr
Dry Cottonwood Gr
Bear Gr
Flathead
Bridger
Range
Missouri River
Jefferson River
Madison River
Gallatin River
Elk Gr
Merry Gr
Pole Gr
Spanish Cr
Bear Cr
Bridger
Bozeman
Mt Ellis
Jackson
Hebgen
Camp
Sacajawea
Elkhorn
Elkhorn Ridge
Big Belt
Mountains
Horseshoe Hills
Cottonwood Gulch
Dry Bear Gr
Flathead Gr
Spanish Creek
Big Bear Creek
Milwaukee
Pacific
Northern
Yellowstone
Chicago
Burlington
Northern
Great Northern
Northern Pacific

D. Range Management Program (Background)

BLM authorizes more than 9,400 animal unit months (AUMs) of feed for livestock within the planning area. An AUM is calculated as enough feed to sustain a cow or five sheep for one month. Eighty-four livestock operators and their families depend to some degree on the forage produced on BLM range.

National resource lands generally lie between private lands and national forest. The majority of the grazing takes place by cattle in the spring and early summer. There is only one sheep operation authorized to graze national resource lands. The majority of grazing use occurs in individual grazing allotments; only 6 allotments have more than one operator.

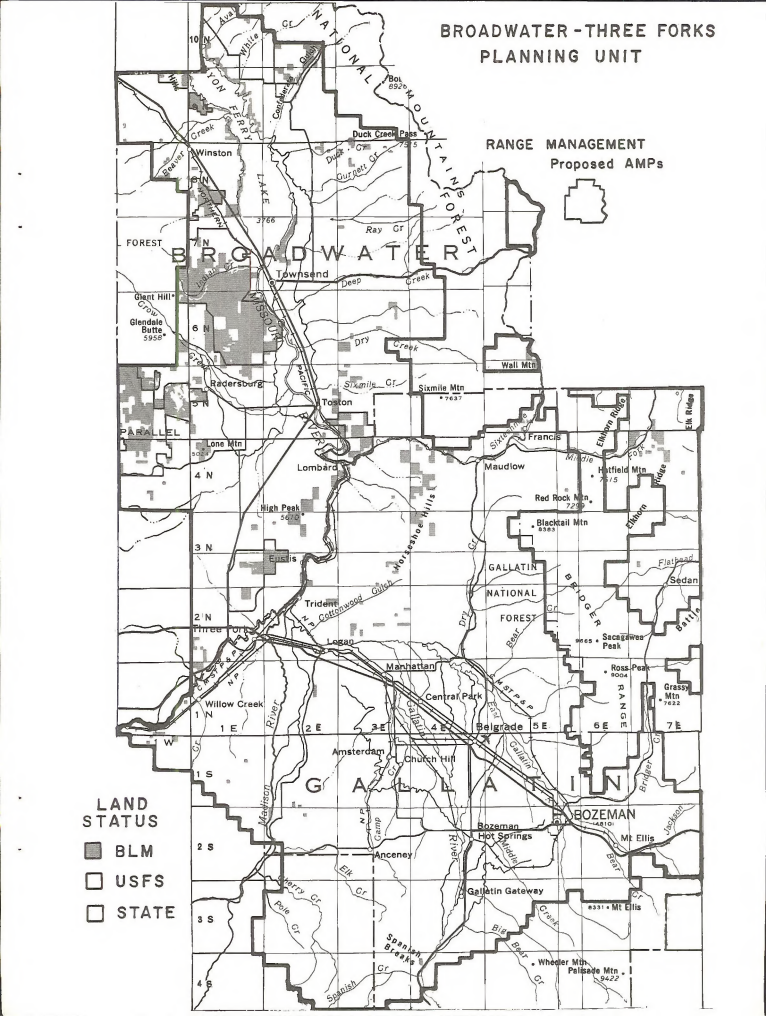
There is a small band of wild horses that has occupied the Devils Fence Area since about 1964. These horses range back and forth between BLM and intermingled private lands within the Broadwater Planning Unit. About 26% of the total acreage upon which these horses range is national resource lands administered by BLM. (66% is private and 8% is state owned.)

Major Guidelines for Range Management Are:

1. Provide for continued grazing of livestock on a sustained yield basis.

2. Implement allotment management plans on approximately 50,200 acres of national resource lands. Design allotment plans to improve watershed, increase forage production, and to improve wildlife habitat compatible with other multiple use values.

3. Remove a small band (about 10 head) of wild horses from the Devils Fence area due to a variety of management problems. The size of the herd makes it subject to severe inbreeding, BLM ownership is only 26% of the year-long range, fences are numerous, all water sources of any duration are on private lands, and the horses occasionally use private land separated from BLM lands by a legal fence.


BROADWATER - THREE FORKS
PLANNING UNIT
RANGE MANAGEMENT
Proposed AMPs
LAND
STATUS
BLM
USFS
STATE
BROADWATER
GALLATIN
BOZEMAN
Townsend
Toston
Radersburg
Winston
Three Forks
Logan
Manhattan
Belgrade
Amsterdam
Church Hill
Central Park
Willow Creek
Trident
Ellis
Lombard
Maudlow
Francis
Sixmile Mtn
Wall Mtn
Giant Hill
Glendale Butte
Lone Mtn
High Peak
Hatfield Mtn
Red Rock Mtn
Blacktail Mtn
Ross Peak
Grassy Mtn
Sacagawea Peak
Bozeman Hot Springs
Anceney
Gallatin Gateway
Mt Ellis
Wheeler Mtn
Palisade Mtn
Missouri River
Jefferson River
Madison River
Gallatin River
Boulder River
Bridger Range
Elkhorn Range
Gallatin National Forest
Lewis & Clark National Forest
Deep Creek
Dry Creek
Sixmile Gr
Duck Creek Pass
Ray Gr
Spanish Creek
Bear Creek
Flathead
Sedan
Battle
Jackson
Hyalite Creek
Elk Ridge

E. Watershed Program (Background)

The watershed resource program in the Broadwater - Three Forks planning area deals with the maintenance of watershed cover, stabilization of soils, and the production of water.

Based on a watershed study, the following erosion condition classes were found on national resource lands within the planning area:

Erosion Condition Class on NRL		
Slight	Moderate	Stable
14,770 acres	49,732 acres	65,632 acres

Major Watershed Guidelines Are:

1. Require protective and rehabilitating measures for all soil disturbing activities which occur due to mineral leasing, materials sale, road building, and timber harvest. Design livestock allotment plans to include objectives for improving watershed cover.

2. Management of livestock use according to a grazing system will be the primary method to improve watershed cover. Use of herbicides, or mechanical tillage treatments, will not be done in the absence of livestock management and will not be carried out until the response to improved livestock management has been demonstrated.

F. Wildlife Habitat Management Program (Background)

BLM is responsible for managing the national resource land habitat to maintain or improve food, cover, and living space for wildlife. The Broadwater - Three Forks planning

area provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Mule deer and elk spend the summer and winter in the mountain-foothill areas. Pronghorn antelope inhabit the more open valley bottoms and foothills. Blue grouse, ruff grouse, and sharptail grouse inhabit many of the higher mountain areas. Riparian (river bank) habitat provides important living areas for a large variety of small mammals and birds. Some of the important fishery habitat includes the Madison, Gallatin, Jefferson, and Missouri rivers as well as numerous streams and impoundments. NRL wildlife habitat is found on both scattered tracts of land and on the larger blocks of land in the Limestone Hills, Johnny Gulch and Devils Fence area.

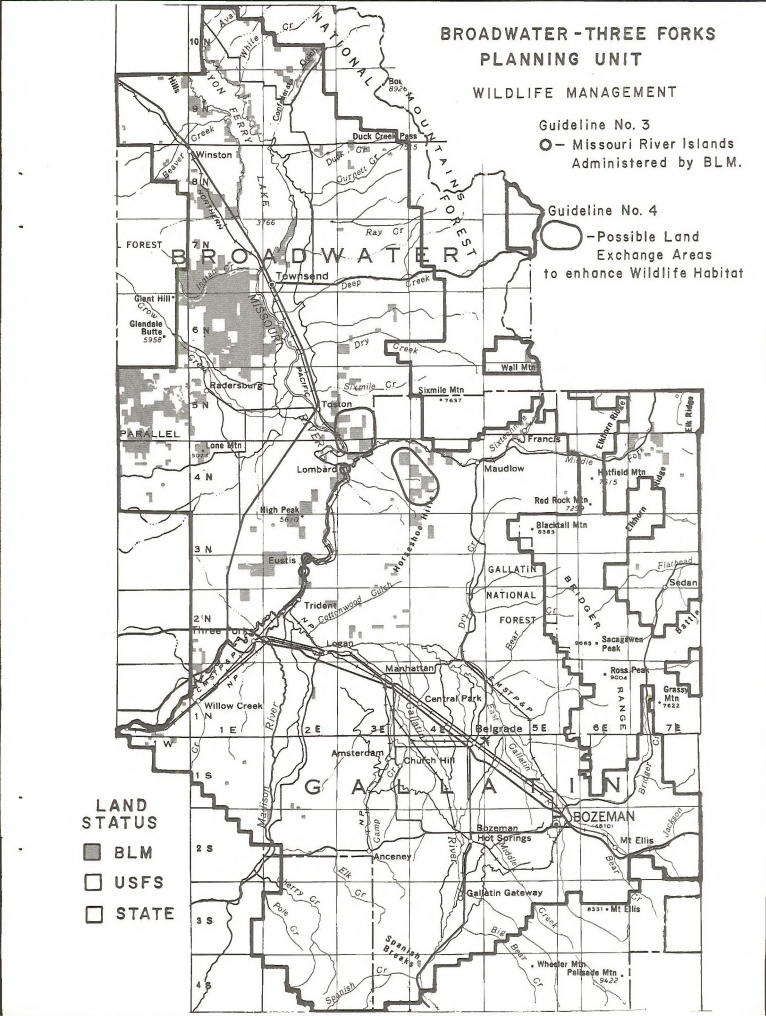
Major Wildlife Guidelines Are:

1. Manage to sustain wildlife habitat for big game, fisheries, waterfowl, upland game, and non-game species on all national resource lands.

2. On areas proposed for livestock allotment management plans, manage to provide improved habitat for increased numbers of big game animals consistent with other multiple use values. Refer to Range Management Map for proposed allotment boundaries.

3. The Missouri River islands, which are property of the United States, will be managed to retain them in present condition as habitat for waterfowl, osprey, and non-game birds.

4. Encourage private and federal land exchange in areas of intermingled ownership patterns, particularly in the lower Sixteen Mile Creek and Horseshoe Hills area.


BROADWATER-THREE FORKS
PLANNING UNIT
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
Guideline No. 3
O– Missouri River Islands
Administered by BLM.
Guideline No. 4
–Possible Land
Exchange Areas
to enhance Wildlife Habitat
LAND
STATUS
BLM
USFS
STATE
BROADWATER
GALLATIN
NATIONAL FOREST
GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST
BOZEMAN
Townsend
Radersburg
Toston
Three Forks
Logan
Manthattan
Belgrade
Amsterdam
Church Hill
Bozeman Hot Springs
Ancenev
Gallatin Gateway
Mt Ellis
Wheeler Mtn.
Palisade Mtn.
9422
Giant Hill
Glendale Butte
5938
Lone Mtn
9174
High Peak
5609
Eustis
Tridents
Willow Creek
Sixmile Mtn
7637
Wall Mtn
Lombard
Maudlow
Francis
Hatfield Mtn
7375
Red Rock Mtn
7229
Blacktail Mtn
8383
Sacagawea Peak
9083
Ross Peak
9004
Grassy Mtn
7622
Sedan
Elkhorn Ridge
Elk Ridge
Bridger Range
Horseshoe Hills
Missouri River
Deep Creek
Dry Creek
Duck Creek Pass
7255
Ray Cr
Duck Cr
Gurnett Cr
Hilger Cr
Cottonwood Creek
Dry Cr
Beaver Cr
Flathead
Battle
Jackson
Bear Cr
Elk Cr
Porte Cr
Spanish Cr
Blue Bear Cr
Spanish Basin
Cottonwood Cr
Madison River
Gallatin River
Jefferson River
Missouri River
Sixmile Cr
Willow Cr
Bridger Cr
Camp Creek
Hilger Creek
Boz
8926
Winston
Lake Helena
3766
Lone Mtn
Tobacco Root Mountains
Bridger Mtns
Elkhorn Mtns
Gallatin Range
Gallatin Canyon
Gallatin River
Jackson
Mt Ellis
8331
Bozeman
4610
Belgrade
Amsterdam
Church Hill
Manthattan
Logan
Three Forks
Willow Creek
Tridents
Eustis
High Peak
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Lombard
Maudlow
Townsend
Radersburg
Toston
Sixmile Mtn
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Hatfield Mtn
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Red Rock Mtn
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Blacktail Mtn
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Ross Peak
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Wheeler Mtn.
Palisade Mtn.
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Gallatin Gateway
Ancenev
Bozeman Hot Springs
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Duck Creek Pass
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Ray Cr
Deep Creek
Dry Creek
Wall Mtn
Dry Cr
Flathead
Battle
Jackson
Bear Cr
Elk Cr
Porte Cr
Spanish Cr
Blue Bear Cr
Spanish Basin
Cottonwood Cr
Madison River
Gallatin River
Jefferson River
Missouri River
Sixmile Cr
Willow Cr
Bridger Cr
Camp Creek
Hilger Creek
Boz
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Winston
Lake Helena
3766
Lone Mtn
Tobacco Root Mountains
Bridger Mtns
Elkhorn Mtns
Gallatin Range
Gallatin Canyon
Gallatin River
Jackson
Mt Ellis
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Bozeman
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Cottonwood Cr
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Camp Creek
Hilger Creek

G. Recreation Program (Background)

Recreation is considered a significant part of the economy in Gallatin and Broadwater counties due to major developments on Forest Service lands, Yellowstone National Park, and private recreational development. Recreational opportunities in these areas consist of fishing, boating, hunting, camping, picnicking, historical siteseeing, driving for pleasure, and backpacking. Opportunities for these various recreational activities are limited on the national resource lands due to the scattered and largely inaccessible nature of the lands. In total, national resource lands constitute five percent of the planning area. However, recreation potential is higher on the Jefferson and Missouri rivers and in the Limestone and Horseshoe Hills where significant concentrations of NRL occur.

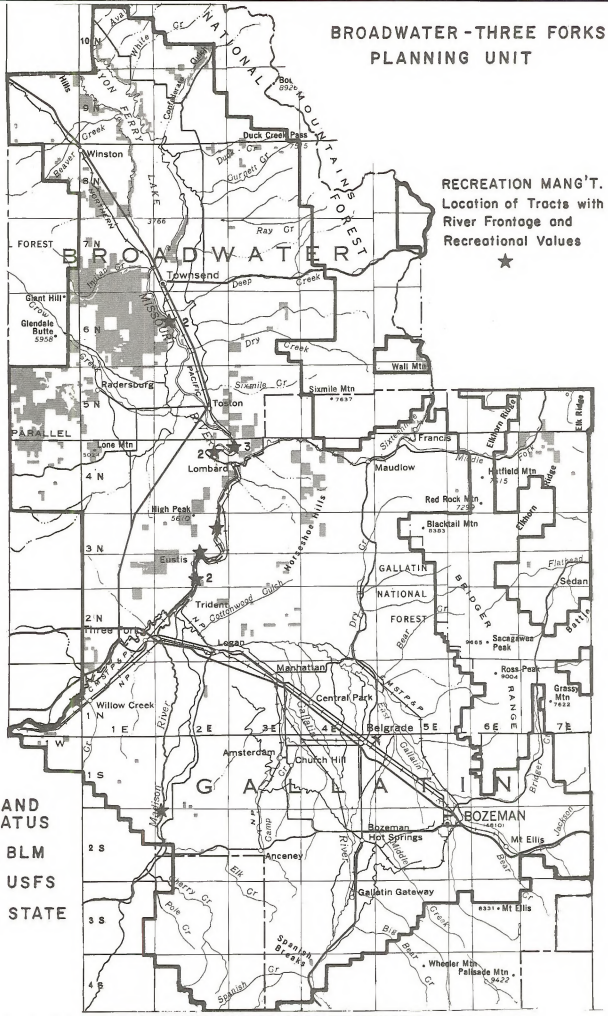
Major Recreation Guidelines Are:

1. Retain in federal ownership all tracts which have frontage on the Jefferson, Madison, and Missouri rivers. These tracts have potential recreational value for river floating activities (fishing, waterfowl hunting, sightseeing). These tracts will receive priority for posting land ownership boundary signs.

2. As funding provides, establish a float-boaters takeout near Toston Dam with access road and minimal recreational facilities.

3. Identify specific existing trails within the Limestone Hills to provide summer recreational off-road vehicle use.

4. Provide an extensive archaeological and an intensive historical inventory of national resource lands within the Broadwater unit.


BROADWATER - THREE FORKS
PLANNING UNIT
RECREATION MANG'T.
Location of Tracts with
River Frontage and
Recreational Values
LAND
STATUS
BLM
USFS
STATE
BROADWATER
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NATIONAL MOUNTAIN FOREST
GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST
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Ross Peak
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Elk Ridge
Bridger Range
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Madison River
Missouri River
Jefferson River
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Public Participation on the Planning Process

Public participation on the Broadwater - Three Forks MFP began informally July 1, 1975, with contacts with the user public during the initial inventory phase of the planning process. Formal public involvement was initiated December 19, 1975, with the distribution of more than 300 letters and questionnaires to residents of Gallatin and Broadwater counties. Distribution of the letters and questionnaires was accomplished with the aid of various civic and religious leaders in the two-county area. The letter stated that a management plan was being developed for approximately 71,300 acres of BLM administered land in Gallatin and Broadwater counties. The questionnaire was aimed at soliciting public concerns and attitudes towards future management of these lands.

In addition to the letters and questionnaires, BLM representatives visited communities within the planning unit making formal and informal presentations concerning the purpose of the questionnaire as well as the nature of BLM's planning process.

Of the more than 300 questionnaires mailed out by the various community leaders, 63 responses were returned to BLM. Following this input, a brochure was prepared to obtain further information on situations such as public land access, recreational value of river tracts, historic and cultural values, wild horse management in the Devils Fence area, and multiple use relationships of the Horseshoe Hills area south of Toston and the Limestone Hills area west of Townsend. The brochure, which was mailed to the public in April 1976, contained the information that a public meeting had been scheduled for May 5 in Townsend. About 40 people

attended the meeting. Those receiving the planning unit brochure included area ranchers, sportman's organizations, county and state government officials, recreational organizations, other federal agencies, conservationsists, and wild horse associations.

As a result of the information obtained through use of the questionnaire, brochure, and public meeting, the following key issues discussed with the public have been addressed in the Broadwater - Three Forks MFP. Although these issues were not originally identified by the public, they did respond in different degrees to some of the information presented by BLM in the brochure dated April 1976. No other issues were brought to BLM's attention.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Many members of the public are generally opposed to off-road vehicle use. However, with the exception of the Limestone Hills area, no specific areas were identified by the public as needing closure to protect resource values. No guidelines were made on ORV use with the exception of what pertains to the Limestone Hills (section to follow).

Access to Isolated Tracts

Some of the landowners in the Horseshoe Hills area were not pleased that the question was asked concerning the need for improved access, since they have been making a considerable effort to control and restrict access on their own lands and consequently on isolated BLM lands. Due to the absence of specific data, no guidelines were developed concerning access to isolated tracts of public land.

Multiple-Use Relationships of the Limestone Hills

Most segments of the public favor continued training in the Limestone Hills by the National Guard. Ranchers who

graze livestock in the Limestone Hills, however, were concerned about any expansion of activities by the Guard. They were also opposed to authorization of ORV rallies in that area. Guidelines were made to continue to provide this area for National Guard training and also to consider authorization of short term ORV events on existing trails.

Wild Horses in the Devils Fence Area

Written and verbal opinions did not favor management of the small herd in the Devils Fence area. Most people have a hard time accepting the fact that estray, or domesticated horses in trespass prior to the law, technically became wild horses if they were unbranded and subsequently unclaimed. There is a guideline for removing the horses since they occasionally break into private land enclosed by a fence and cause a variety of management problems.

Agricultural Trespass

Most public comment relating to agricultural trespass did not favor ultimate disposition of these lands to facilitate sustained agricultural production. There is a guideline to dispose of four tracts which were not recognized as having any significant resource values. A constraint on this guideline was to require input from a soils specialist to determine soil potential prior to a final determination of agricultural values.

Missouri River Islands - Omitted Lands

This topic generated interest to the extent that the public was previously unaware that the Government would exert a claim to some (or all) of these islands. Public input was generally in favor of retaining the islands in their present condition and managing for wildlife habitat values. There is a guideline to assign priority management of these islands for wildlife values (osprey, waterfowl, and other species).

Recreational Value of Tracts with River Frontage

This topic generated some interest, but much of the public is unaware of location of specific tracts on the Jefferson, Madison, and Missouri rivers. The public is generally in favor of retention of these lands and marking ownership boundaries. A guideline was also made to this effect.

Recreational Facilities in the Toston Dam Area

The public expressed a need for development of facilities by BLM near Toston Dam. A guideline has been made to develop minimal facilities here as funding becomes available.

Multiple-Use Relationships of the Horseshoe Hills

In connection with access needs for timber harvest or for hunting, landowners expressed concern for impact on private lands and the lack of control that might result in keeping the public on rights-of-way through private lands. Some individuals expressed interest in a timber harvest program since it would facilitate harvest on private lands. Others expressed doubts about the quantity and quality of timber on BLM lands. After a discussion of disposal of lands and how appraisals are made, most adjacent landowners did not express a desire to dispose of these lands. Some landowners indicated a willingness to consider exchanges. Management guidelines for this area were made to emphasize retention of timber for wildlife values. No guidelines have been made which identify access needs. Guidelines have been made which would identify private lands in the Horseshoe Hills desirable for public management.

Montana BLM Organization

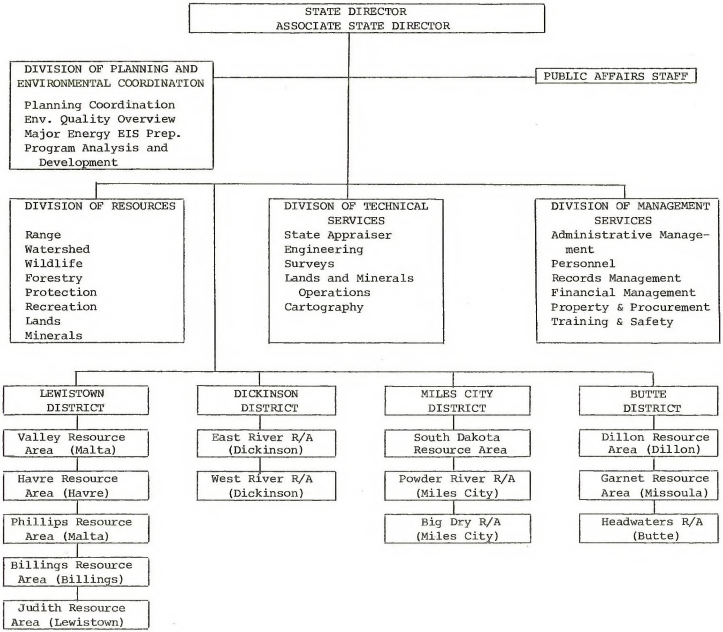
The Bureau's work in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota is administered from a State Office headquarters located in Billings, Montana. Within these three states, the 8.4 million surface acres and 55 million subsurface acres of national resource lands are further divided administratively into four districts with District Offices in Butte, Lewistown, and Miles City, and Dickinson, North Dakota. Each District is divided into Resource Areas to facilitate day to day administration and long-term management on a multiple use basis.

The surface and subsurface acreages administered by the four BLM Districts are noted in the table below:

Acreage Statistics
Montana BLM Organization

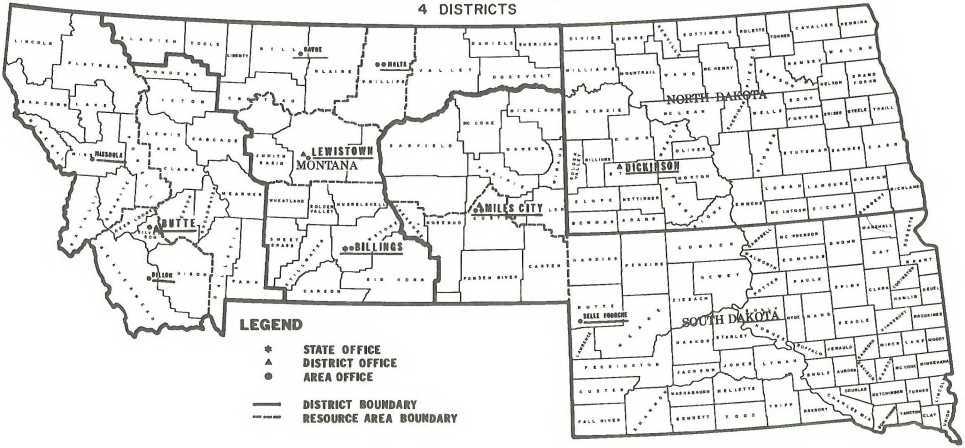
District	Surface Ownership		Subsurface Ownership		Total All Ownership
	BLM	Other	BLM	Other	
Butte	1,334,000	33,456,400	2,285,345	32,505,054	34,790,400
Lewistown	3,884,701	33,167,885	8,177,983	28,879,603	37,057,586
Miles City					
Montana	2,785,299	17,363.119	10,910,741	9,237,677	20,148,418
S. Dakota	276,000	48,335,200	800,000	47,811,200	48,611,200
Dickinson	68,000	44,266,720	4,968,000	39,366,720	44,334,720

ORGANIZATION CHART
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - MONTANA



DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND OFFICE LOCATIONS

4 DISTRICTS



ADDRESSES
Montana BLM Organization

Montana State Office
222 North 32 Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 245-6711, Ext. 6561
FTS: 585-6561

Butte District Office
220 North Alaska
PO Box 308
Butte, Montana 59701
Telephone: Com: 723-6561
FTS: 585-2416

(Same address and phone number for Headwaters Resource Area)

Dillon Resource Area Headquarters
Ibey Building, N. Dillon
PO Box 1048
Dillon, Montana 59725
Telephone: Com: 683-2337

Garnet Resource Area Headquarters
1819 Holborn
PO Box 4427
Missoula, Montana 59801
Telephone: Com: 329-3686
FTS: 585-3686

Lewistown District Office
Bank Electric Building
Drawer 1160
Lewistown, Montana 59457
Telephone: Com: 538-5406

(Same address and phone number for Judith Resource Area)

Phillips Resource Area Headquarters
and
Valley Resource Area Headquarters
501 South 2nd Street E
PO Box B
Malta, Montana 59538
Telephone: Com: 654-1240

Billings Resource Area Headquarters
810 F. Main Street
Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone: Com: 245-6711, Ext. 6262
FTS: 585-6262

Havre Resource Area Headquarters
Post Office Building
Drawer 911
Havre, Montana 59501
Telephone: Com: 265-9051

Miles City District Office
West of Miles City
PO Box 940
Miles City, Montana 59301
Telephone: Com: 232-4331

(Same address and phone number for Powder River and Big Dry Resource Areas)

South Dakota Resource Area Headquarters
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717
Telephone: Com: 892-2526

Dickinson District Office
235 Sims Avenue
PO Box 1072
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601
Telephone: Com: 225-9148

BLM LIBRARY
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DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

Bureau of Land Management
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Denver Service Center

As the Nation's principal conser
Department of the Interior has
most of our nationally owned pu
natural resources. This inclu
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parks and historical places, ar
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and works to assure that their
best interests of all our peopl
also has a major responsibility
reservation communities and for
Island Territories under U.S. a

HD 243 .M9 M363 1976

Management framework plan

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